



FERGUSON SLIDE

Restoration Project



Geotechnical Study

Since the rockslide began last spring, Caltrans has made efforts to predict changes in the rockslide activity using two monitoring methods. One of these methods, Slope Stability Radar, is automated, works around the clock, and has the potential to be web based and give warnings. The other method uses survey techniques to measure the movement of monuments located on the upper slide surface.

Current monitoring methods include:



Slope Stability Radar

- Scans slope every 15 minutes automatically
- Radar works in the dark
- Dust and rainfall do not affect signal
- If a direct communication link is established it could be web based and provide a warning
- Only works on bare rocky surfaces or lower portion of slide



Reflector Monuments

- Works on upper slide surface
- 54 monuments in use
- Shows millimeter accuracy
- Gives monthly readings

The monitoring methods have shown that recent rockslide movement is less than a quarter of an inch per day. Caltrans does not expect to see increased rockslide movement during the critical April to May period since it has been such a dry year.

Caltrans will also be conducting geotechnical drilling throughout the area for the proposed Ferguson Slide Restoration project. We anticipate the drilling will begin in June 2007 and will continue through July 2007.

The purpose of the drilling is to generate geotechnical data essential for the design of the proposed alternatives. A total of 25 borings are proposed to cover all alternatives. Eleven of those borings will have easy access from the existing highway or detour. Four of the borings will be in the river channel. The remaining 10 borings are located on steep terrain that will require a helicopter to transport the drill equipment into place.